

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Strassburg, Outdoor Recreation Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
16507 SW Roy Rogers Road
Sherwood, Oregon 97140
Ph:(503) 590-5811 Fax:(503) 590-6702

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Each year in October, refuges throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System promote awareness and appreciation of native wildlife and their habitats by hosting a variety of special events. Join us in celebrating ***National Wildlife Refuge Week at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge*** in Sherwood by discovering and enjoying the diversity of fall wildlife this local refuge has to offer.

Fall and winter are spectacular times to visit the Refuge. As Arctic-nesting waterfowl begin their migration journey from their northern breeding grounds, bird activity increases on the Refuge. By late September, visitors will notice the first arrivals of waterfowl such as green-winged teal. By mid-winter, the Refuge boasts an average of 20,000 waterfowl, and in some years, over 50,000 have been seen in a single day. October 1st marks the first day of the Refuge's "sanctuary" period where much of the Refuge, including the "seasonal trails," is closed to all public entry. This closure will remain in effect until May 1st in order to minimize disturbance to the abundant, yet vulnerable, winter waterfowl. The one-mile long "year-round trail," leaving from the main visitor entrance of the Refuge, off Highway 99W just north of Sherwood, remains open throughout the year. All scheduled ***Refuge Week*** activities, unless otherwise specified, will meet at this main entrance.

On Wednesday, October 11th, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friends of the Refuge will present "Waterfowl of the Willamette Valley", an indoor class presented by Friends member, Doug Robberson. Doug will lead a follow-up field trip from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on October 14th. Space is limited, so register early by contacting Karyn at 503-968-2200 or karyn.smith@homestreet.com. The indoor class will be held at Refuge Headquarters, 16507 SW Roy Rogers Road.

On Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th, at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m., Refuge Volunteer Naturalists will lead 2-hour, 2 mile nature walks on the refuge. No reservations required. Meet at the main trailhead.

Also on Saturday, at 12:00 p.m., the Refuge will partner with REI to present a 1-hour "Leave No Trace" workshop for kids ages 5-13. Games and activities will teach participants how they can experience and be part of their environment and still be "light on the land." Afterwards, families are encouraged to join a guided nature walk, or head out on their own, to practice their new skills.

On Saturday, October 14th, the Tualatin Riverkeepers will host guided canoe paddle trips on the Tualatin River through the Refuge. The 2-hour intermediate paddles begin at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Canoe trips are free and advance registration is required. For further information and to register, call 503-620-7507 or email

info@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Volunteers are needed on October 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to be part of the Refuge “Trail Crew.” Meet at the main trailhead. Bring gloves, boots, tree pruning clippers, loppers and rakes to help prepare our nature trail for the winter.

For further information and driving directions, go to www.fws.gov/tualatinriver or www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org or call 503-590-5811. Visitors needing special assistance will be accommodated. Please call ahead for more detailed information.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.